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APPLICANTS

Avecia Limited

TITLE

MAGENTA METAL CHELATE DYES AND THEIR USE IN INK-JET PRINTERS

MAGENTA METAL CHELATE DYES AND THEIR USE IN INK-JET PRINTERS

This invention relates to metal chelate compounds, to inks and to their use in ink jet printing ("IJP").

5 IJP is a non-impact printing technique in which droplets of ink are ejected through a fine nozzle onto a substrate without bringing the nozzle into contact with the substrate.

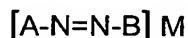
10 There are many demanding performance requirements for dyes and inks used in IJP. For example they desirably provide sharp, non-feathered images having good water-fastness, light-fastness and optical density. The inks are often required to dry quickly when applied to a substrate to prevent smudging, but they should not form a crust over the tip of an ink jet nozzle because this will stop the printer from working. The inks should also be stable to storage over time without decomposing or forming a precipitate which could block the fine nozzle.

15 Colour ink-jet printers typically use four inks of differing hues: magenta, yellow, cyan, and black. Colours other than these may be obtained using differing combinations of these inks. Thus, for optimum print quality, the colorants used must be able to form an ink with a specific precise hue. This can be achieved by mixing colorants but is advantageously achieved by used a single colourant with the exact hue required.

20 Magenta colorants such as C.I. Acid Red 52 and their use in IJP are known. Many magenta colorants have poor ozone and/or light fastness. Others have an undesirable shade or low chroma. Our own recent studies have shown the deleterious effect ozone can have on prints, causing accelerated fading even in the dark. With ever increasing manufacturer and customer requirements for long term print fastness there is a need for magenta colorants suitable for ink jet with improved shade, light fastness and ozone fastness

25 WO 01/48090 relates to metal chelate compounds that comprise a naphthol component and certain heterocyclic groups. WO 01/48090 does not disclose such compounds substituted by a pyridyl ring attached to an azo group in the alpha position. Furthermore, WO 01/48090 does not disclose the fact that such substituted compounds have superior properties for use in ink jet printing applications.

30 According to the present invention there is provided a metal chelate compound of Formula (1) or a salt thereof:

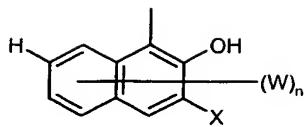


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Formula (1)

wherein:

A is an optionally substituted pyridyl ring; and
B is of the Formula (2):

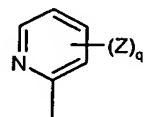


Formula (2)

wherein:

X and W are substituents other than H;
 M is a metal chelated to A-N=N-B; and
 5 n is 0 to 4.

A is preferably of the Formula (3):



Formula (3)

wherein:

10 q is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and
 each Z independently is a substituent other than H.

Preferably W, X and Z are each independently selected from CF_3 , -OH, -Br, -Cl, -F, -CN, -NO₂, phosphoric acid, sulpho, optionally substituted phosphoramido, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aralkyl, -SR¹, -SO₂R¹, -SO₂NR²R³, -SOR¹, -OR¹, -C(O)R¹, -C(O)OR¹, -C(O)NR²R³, -NR²R³ or -NHCOR¹, wherein R¹, R² and R³ are each independently H, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted aralkyl.

20 When W, X or Z is optionally substituted phosphoramido it is preferably unsubstituted or substituted by optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted aralkyl. Preferred substituents include, for example, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, hydroxyethyl, optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted benzyl.

25 When W, X or Z is optionally substituted alkoxy it is preferably optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy, optionally substituted by -Cl, -F, -Br, -CN, -OH or -CO₂H. Most preferably Z is unsubstituted C₁₋₆-alkoxy.

When W, X or Z is optionally substituted alkyl it is preferably optionally substituted C₁₋₄-alkyl, more preferably C₁₋₄-alkyl optionally substituted by halo, hydroxy, carboxy, sulpho or cyano. Examples include methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, trifluoromethyl,

hydroxyethyl, cyanoethyl, sulphopropyl and carboxyethyl. When Z is optionally substituted alkyl it is especially preferably methyl, ethyl or trifluoromethyl.

When W, X or Z is optionally substituted alkenyl, it is preferably optionally substituted C₂-C₄ alkenyl.

5 When W, X or Z is optionally substituted alkynyl, it is preferably optionally substituted C₂-C₆ alkynyl.

When W, X or Z is optionally substituted aryl, it is preferably optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted naphthyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, especially optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl.

10 Preferred optional substituents on W, X or Z when W, X or Z is optionally substituted aryl are selected from sulpho, carboxy, nitro, cyano, halo (preferably chloro), alkoxy (preferably C₁₋₆-alkoxy), alkyl (preferably C₁₋₄-alkyl, optionally substituted by halogen (preferably fluoro)), hydroxy, carboxy, phosphoric acid and sulpho. When W, X or Z is optionally substituted aryl it is especially substituted by C₁₋₄-alkyl, carboxy, 15 phosphoric acid, halogen (preferably fluoro), hydroxy and sulpho.

When W, X or Z is optionally substituted aralkyl, it is preferably optionally substituted benzyl.

Preferably W and X are each independently selected from sulpho, sulphonamido, carboxy, carbonamide, halogen, nitro and cyano groups.

20 Z is most preferably selected from -SH, carboxy, cyano, halo (preferably, bromo, chloro or fluoro), nitro, C₁₋₆-alkoxy or C₁₋₄-alkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy, carboxy, halo (preferably fluoro) or cyano group(s).

R¹, R² and R³ are preferably each independently H, optionally substituted C₁₋₄-alkyl or optionally substituted aryl, more preferably H, C₁₋₄-alkyl optionally substituted by 25 hydroxy, carboxy, sulpho or cyano or phenyl optionally substituted by hydroxy, carboxy, sulpho, nitro, trifluoromethyl or cyano. Examples of groups represented by R¹, R² and R³ include methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, hydroxyethyl, cyanoethyl, sulphopropyl, carboxyethyl or carboxyphenyl. It is especially preferred that R¹, R² and R³ are H, optionally substituted C₁₋₄-alkyl (for example, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyethyl or cyanoethyl), 30 or optionally substituted aryl (for example phenyl optionally substituted by carboxy).

It is preferred that the pyridyl ring A is un-substituted or carries one or more substituents selected from -SH, carboxy, cyano, halo (preferably, bromo, chloro or fluoro), nitro, C₁₋₆-alkoxy or C₁₋₄-alkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy, carboxy, halo (preferably fluoro) or cyano.

35 Preferably q is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, more preferably q is 0, 1 or 2.

M preferably comprises one or more of the following metals: nickel, chromium, cobalt, copper, zinc, iron or manganese. It is particularly preferred that M is nickel or copper, most preferably nickel.

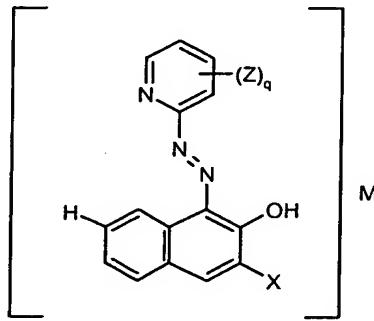
Preferably A-N=N-B is chelated to M in the ratio 1:1, 2:1, 2:2 or 2:3 respectively, especially in the ratio 1:1 or 2:1 respectively.

When there is more than one ligand of formula A-N=N-B in the metal chelate compound of Formula (1) then the ligands of formula A-N=N-B may be the same or different but preferably they are the same.

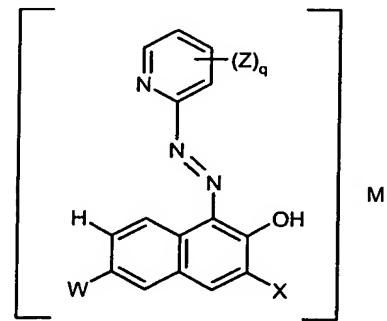
The metal chelate compound of Formula (1) may also comprise 1 or more additional ligands. These ligands may be coloured or colourless and when there is more than 1 they may be the same or different.

Preferably n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, more preferably n is 1 or 2. It is especially preferred that n is 1.

Preferably the compound of Formula (1) is a metal chelate compound of Formula (4a) or (4b) or a salt thereof:



Formula (4a)



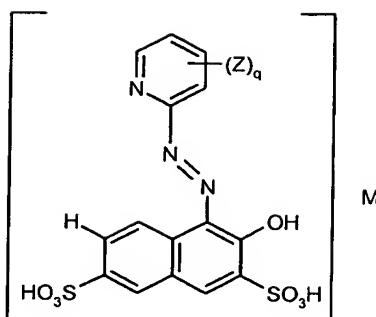
Formula (4b)

wherein:

15 M is nickel chelated to the group shown in square brackets;
 X and W are selected from sulpho, sulphonamido, carboxy, carbonamide, halogen, nitro and cyano groups;
 q is 0, 1 or 2; and
 Z is selected from cyano, C₁₋₄-alkyl, carboxy, nitro, halo and C₁₋₆-alkoxy groups.

20

More preferably the compound of Formula (1) is a metal chelate compound of Formula (5) or a salt thereof:



Formula (5)

wherein:

5 M is nickel, chelated to the group shown in square brackets; and
 q is 0, 1 or 2; and
 Z is selected from cyano, C₁₋₄-alkyl, carboxy, nitro, halo and C₁₋₆-alkoxy groups.

It is especially preferred that the compounds of Formula (1) are magenta in colour
 10 that is, the compounds posses a λ max in the range 490-570nm.

The compounds of the invention exhibit particularly good ozone fastness, optical density and light fastness, making them valuable colorants for photorealistic and other ink jet printing applications.

The compounds of Formula (1) also have good solubility and operability in ink jet
 15 printers with a low tendency to crust over or block nozzles when inks containing the compounds are used in an ink jet printer.

Compounds of Formula (1) are preferably free from fibre reactive groups because no such groups are required. Also fibre reactive groups tend to hydrolyse in ink on long-term storage which can lead to stability problems. The term fibre reactive group is well known in the art and is described for example in EP 0356014 A1. Fibre reactive groups are capable, under suitable conditions, of reacting with the hydroxyl groups present in cellulosic fibres or with the amino groups present in natural fibres to form a covalent linkage between the fibre and the dye. As examples of fibre reactive groups which are preferably absent from the compounds of Formula (1) there may be mentioned aliphatic sulphonyl groups which contain a sulphate ester group in the beta-position to the sulphur atom, e.g. beta-sulphato-ethylsulphonyl groups, alpha, beta-unsaturated acyl radicals of aliphatic carboxylic acids, for example acrylic acid, alpha-chloro-acrylic acid, alpha-bromoacrylic acid, propiolic acid, maleic acid and mono- and dichloro maleic; also the acyl radicals of acids which contain a substituent which reacts with cellulose in the presence of an alkali, e.g. the radical of a halogenated aliphatic acid such as chloroacetic acid, beta-chloro and beta-bromopropionic acids and alpha, beta-dichloro- and dibromopropionic

acids or radicals of vinylsulphonyl- or beta-chloroethylsulphonyl- or beta-sulphatoethylsulphonyl-endo- methylene cyclohexane carboxylic acids. Other examples of cellulose reactive groups are tetrafluorocyclobutyl carbonyl, trifluoro-cyclobutetyl carbonyl, tetrafluorocyclobutylethenyl carbonyl, trifluoro-cyclobutenylethenyl carbonyl; activated 5 halogenated 1,3-dicyanobenzene radicals; and heterocyclic radicals which contain 1, 2 or 3 nitrogen atoms in the heterocyclic ring and at least one cellulose reactive substituent on a carbon atom of the ring.

10 The compounds described herein may exist in tautomeric forms other than those shown in this specification. These tautomers are also included within the scope of the present inventions.

The metal chelate compounds of Formula (1) may also exist in different geometries e.g. octahedral or square planar. These different geometric forms are also included in the scope of the present invention.

15 The compounds of Formula (1) may be in the free acid or salt form. Preferred salts are water-soluble, for example alkali metal salts, (especially lithium, sodium, potassium); ammonium, substituted ammonium and mixed salts thereof. Preferred metal salts are those with sodium, lithium, ammonium and substituted alkyl ammonium salts.

20 Preferred ammonium and substituted alkyl ammonium salts have cations of the formula *NV_4 wherein each V independently is H or optionally substituted alkyl, or two groups represented by V are H or optionally substituted alkyl and the remaining two groups represented by V, together with the N atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6- membered ring (preferably a morpholinyl, pyridinyl or piperidinyl ring).

25 Preferably each V independently is H or C_{1-4} -alkyl, more preferably H, CH_3 or CH_2CH_3 , especially H.

Examples of cations include *NH_4 , morpholinium, piperidinium, pyridinium, $(CH_3)_3N^+H$, $(CH_3)_2N^+H_2$, $H_2N^+(CH_3)(CH_2CH_3)$, $CH_3N^+H_3$, $CH_3CH_2N^+H_3$, $H_2N^+(CH_2CH_3)_2$, $CH_3CH_2CH_2N^+H_3$, $(CH_3)_2CHN^+H_3$, $N^+(CH_3)_4$, $N^+(CH_2CH_3)_4$, N-methyl pyridinium, N,N-dimethyl piperidinium and N,N-dimethyl morpholinium.

30 It is especially preferred that the compound of Formula (1) is in the form of a sodium, lithium, potassium, ammonium or substituted ammonium salt, because we have found that these salts provide prints which exhibit a high light-fastness when incorporated into an ink jet printing ink.

35 The compounds of Formula (1) may be converted into a salt using known techniques. For example, an alkali metal salt of a compound may be converted into a salt with ammonia or an amine by dissolving an alkali metal salt of the dye in water and passing the solution through a column of a suitably modified ion exchange resin.

The compounds of Formula (1) may be prepared using conventional techniques for the preparation of metal chelate compounds and non-stoichiometric mixtures thereof.

For example, a suitable method comprises mixing together a metal salt and a compound of Formula A-N=N-B in solution, wherein A and B are as hereinbefore defined.

The product of the above process may be converted to a salt by conventional techniques as hereinbefore described. Alternatively, the product may be isolated in its free acid form by acidifying the reaction mixture, preferably using a mineral acid, for example hydrochloric acid and when the product precipitates as a solid it may be separated from the mixture by filtration. Unwanted anions may be and preferably are removed from the product of the above process by dialysis, reverse osmosis, ultra filtration or a combination thereof. Alternatively, the product solution is subjected to the above purification directly without isolation of the product.

The compounds of Formula A-N=N-B may be prepared by, for example, diazotising the N-oxide of amino-pyridine A-NH₂ to give a diazonium salt and coupling the resultant diazonium salt with a compound of the Formula H-B, wherein A and B are as hereinbefore defined. The diazotisation is preferably performed at a temperature below 20°C, more preferably at a temperature in the range -0°C to 5°C. Preferably the diazotisation is performed in dilute acid, preferably at a pH below 7. Dilute mineral acid, e.g. HCl or H₂SO₄ or an organic acid for example acetic acid, phosphoric acid or a mixture thereof are often used to achieve the desired acidic conditions. The N-oxide can then be cleaved to provide the compound of Formula A-N=N-B.

Alternatively, the compounds of Formula (1) can be prepared by diazotising a compound of formula A-NH₂ to give a diazonium salt e.g. using sodium ethoxide and isooamyl nitrite, followed by coupling the diazonium salt onto a compound of formula H-B to provide a compound of Formula A-N=N-B.

Compounds of Formula A-N=N-B can then be converted to the corresponding metal complexes [A-N=N-B]M by treatment with metal salts, such as for example nickel (II) chloride or nickel (II) acetate.

The present invention also provides mixtures comprising two or more compounds of the Formula (1) or salts thereof. Furthermore, the compounds of Formula (1) may be mixed with commercially available dyes, especially those listed in the Colour Index International, to adjust the shade or other properties as desired.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a composition comprising:

- (a) one or more compound(s) according to the first aspect of the present invention; and
- (b) one or more water-soluble dye(s) other than a compound according to the first aspect of the invention.

The other water-soluble dye is for example a xanthene dye, an azo or bis azo dye.

Preferred other water-soluble dyes include C.I. Acid Red 50, 52, 87, 91, 92, 95, 249 and 289; CI Direct Red 252; pacified Reactive Red 23; C.I. Direct Violet 106 and 107;

compounds 100 to 107, 200 and 201 described on pages 8 and 9 of WO96/24636; compounds 1 to 24 shown described on columns 4 to 10 in US 5,542,970; compounds 1 to 55 described on pages 7 to 17 of EP-A-682 088; compounds 1 to 14 shown in Example 1 to 6 of EP-A-194,885; compounds 1 to 24 described on pages 8 to 13 of EP-A-717 089; 5 the compounds described in examples 1 to 16 in columns. 5 to 11 of US 5,262,527; and the dyes described in Examples 1 to 21 in WO 94/16021.

10 The composition according to the second aspect of the present invention preferably comprises from 1 to 99, more preferably from 3 to 70 and especially from 5 to 50 parts in total of Component (a); and from 99 to 1, more preferably from 30 to 97 parts and especially 95 to 50 parts in total of Component (b), wherein the parts are by weight and the sum of the parts (a) + (b) = 100.

15 The composition may contain a single dye of Formula (1) or a mixture thereof, as described in the first aspect of the invention. Similarly, the composition may contain a single water-soluble dye or a mixture of two or more water-soluble dyes.

20 The compounds and compositions according to the first and second aspects of the present invention may be, and preferably are, purified to remove undesirable impurities before they are incorporated into inks for ink jet printing. Conventional techniques may be employed for purification, for example ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis and/or dialysis.

25 According to a third aspect of the present invention there is provided an ink comprising:

- (i) a compound according to the first aspect of the present invention, or a composition according to the second aspect of the invention; and
- (ii) a liquid medium.

25 The liquid medium preferably comprises: water; a mixture of water and an organic solvent; or an organic solvent free from water.

30 The number of parts by weight of component (i) of the ink is preferably from 0.01 to 30, more preferably 0.1 to 20, especially from 0.5 to 15, and more especially from 1 to 5 parts. The number of parts by weight of component (ii) is preferably from 99.99 to 70, more preferably from 99.9 to 80, especially from 99.5 to 85, and more especially from 99 to 95 parts. The number of parts (i) + (ii) is 100 and all parts mentioned here are by weight.

35 Preferably component (i) is completely dissolved in component (ii). Preferably component (i) has a solubility in component (ii) at 20°C of at least 10%. This allows the preparation of concentrates which may be used to prepare more dilute inks and reduces the chance of the compound(s) of component (i) of the ink precipitating if evaporation of the liquid medium occurs during storage.

When the liquid medium comprises a mixture of water and an organic solvent, the weight ratio of water to organic solvent is preferably from 99:1 to 1:99, more preferably from 99:1 to 50:50 and especially from 95:5 to 80:20.

It is preferred that the organic solvent present in the mixture of water and organic solvent is a water-miscible organic solvent or a mixture of such solvents. Preferred water-miscible organic solvents include C₁₋₆-alkanols, preferably methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, sec-butanol, tert-butanol, n-pentanol, cyclopentanol and cyclohexanol; linear amides, preferably dimethylformamide or dimethylacetamide; ketones and ketone-alcohols, preferably acetone, methyl ether ketone, cyclohexanone and diacetone alcohol; water-miscible ethers, preferably tetrahydrofuran and dioxane; diols, preferably diols having from 2 to 12 carbon atoms, for example pentane-1,5-diol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, pentylene glycol, hexylene glycol and thiodiglycol and oligo- and poly-alkyleneglycols, preferably diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol; triols, preferably glycerol and 1,2,6-hexanetriol; mono-C₁₋₄-alkyl ethers of diols, preferably mono-C₁₋₄-alkyl ethers of diols having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, especially 2-methoxyethanol, 2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethanol, 2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)-ethanol, 2-[2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy] ethanol, 2-[2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)-ethoxy]-ethanol and ethyleneglycol monoallylether; cyclic amides, preferably 2-pyrrolidone, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, N-ethyl-2-pyrrolidone, caprolactam and 1,3-dimethylimidazolidone; cyclic esters, preferably caprolactone; sulphoxides, preferably dimethyl sulphoxide and sulpholane. Preferably the liquid medium comprises water and 2 or more, especially from 2 to 8, water-miscible organic solvents.

When the liquid medium comprises an organic solvent free from water, (i.e. less than 1% water by weight) the solvent preferably has a boiling point of from 30° to 200°C, more preferably of from 40° to 150°C, especially from 50 to 125°C. The organic solvent may be water-immiscible, water-miscible or a mixture of such solvents. Preferred water-miscible organic solvents are any of the hereinbefore described water-miscible organic solvents and mixtures thereof. Preferred water-immiscible solvents include, for example, aliphatic hydrocarbons; esters, preferably ethyl acetate; chlorinated hydrocarbons, preferably CH₂Cl₂; and ethers, preferably diethyl ether; and mixtures thereof.

When the liquid medium comprises a water-immiscible organic solvent, preferably a polar solvent is included because this enhances solubility of the dye in the liquid medium. Examples of polar solvents include C₁₋₄-alcohols. In view of the foregoing preferences it is especially preferred that where the liquid medium is an organic solvent free from water it comprises a ketone (especially methyl ethyl ketone) and/or an alcohol (especially a C₁₋₄-alkanol, such as ethanol or propanol).

The organic solvent free from water may be a single organic solvent or a mixture of two or more organic solvents. It is preferred that when the medium is an organic solvent free from water it is a mixture of 2 to 5 different organic solvents. This allows a medium to be selected which gives good control over the drying characteristics and storage stability of the ink.

Inks comprising an organic solvent free from water are particularly useful where fast drying times are required and particularly when printing onto hydrophobic and non-absorbent substrates, for example plastics, metal and glass.

Preferred low melting solid media have a melting point in the range from 60°C to 5 125°C. Suitable low melting point solids include long chain fatty acids or alcohols, preferably those with C₁₈₋₂₄ chains, and sulphonamides. A compound of Formula (1) may be dissolved in the low melting point solid or may be finely dispersed in it.

The inks according to the present invention may of course also contain further 10 additional components conventionally used in ink jet printing inks, for example viscosity and surface tension modifiers, corrosion inhibitors, biocides, kogation reducing additives, anti-cockle agents to reduce paper curling and surfactants which may be ionic or non-ionic.

The pH of the ink is preferably from 4 to 11, more preferably from 7 to 10.

The inks of the present invention preferably form the magenta ink of a standard 15 magenta, yellow, cyan and black ink set. Typically in such an ink set the yellow ink will contain C.I. Direct Yellow 86, 142 or Pro-Jet™ Fast Yellow 2; the cyan ink will contain C.I. Direct Blue 86, 199 or Pro-Jet™ Fast Cyan 2; and the black ink will contain C.I. Direct Black 199 or Pro-Jet™ Fast Black 2 (Pro-Jet is a trademark of Avecia Limited).

It is preferred that the composition according to the invention is ink suitable for use 20 in an ink-jet printer. Ink suitable for use in an ink-jet printer is ink which is able to repeatedly fire through an ink-jet printing head without causing blockage of the fine nozzles.

The inks may be incorporated in an ink-jet printer as a high concentration ink, a 25 low concentration ink or both a high concentration and a low concentration ink. In the latter case this can lead to improvements in the resolution and quality of printed images. Thus the present invention also provides a composition where component (a) is present in an amount of 2.5 to 7 parts, more preferably 2.5 to 5 parts (a high concentration ink) or component (a) is present in an amount of 0.5 to 2.4 parts, more preferably 0.5 to 1.5 parts (a low concentration ink).

An ink suitable for use in an ink-jet printer preferably has a viscosity of less than 30 20 cP, more preferably less than 10 cP, especially less than 5 cP, at 25°C.

An ink suitable for use in an ink-jet printer preferably contains less than 500ppm, more preferably less than 250ppm, especially less than 100ppm, more especially less than 35 10ppm in total of divalent and trivalent metal ions (other than any divalent and trivalent metal ions bound to a colorant of Formula (1) or any other component of the ink).

Preferably ink suitable for use in an ink-jet printer has been filtered through a filter having a mean pore size below 10µm, more preferably below 3µm, especially below 2µm, more especially below 1µm. This filtration removes particulate matter that could otherwise block the fine nozzles found in many ink-jet printers.

Preferably ink suitable for use in an ink-jet printer contains less than 500ppm, more preferably less than 250ppm, especially less than 100ppm, more especially less than 10ppm in total of halide ions.

5 A fourth aspect of the present invention provides a process for printing an image on a substrate comprising applying thereto by means of an ink jet printer an ink containing a compound according to the first aspect of the invention or a composition according to the second aspect of the invention. The ink used in this process is preferably as defined in the third aspect of the present invention.

10 The ink jet printer preferably applies the ink to the substrate in the form of droplets which are ejected through a small orifice onto the substrate. Preferred ink jet printers are piezoelectric ink jet printers and thermal ink jet printers. In thermal ink jet printers, programmed pulses of heat are applied to the ink in a reservoir by means of a resistor adjacent to the orifice, thereby causing the ink to be ejected in the form of small droplets directed towards the substrate during relative movement between the substrate and the 15 orifice. In piezoelectric ink jet printers the oscillation of a small crystal causes ejection of the ink from the orifice. Alternately the ink can be ejected by an electromechanical actuator connected to a moveable paddle or plunger, for example as described in International Patent Application WO 00/48938 and International Patent Application WO 00/55089.

20 The substrate is preferably paper, plastic, a textile, metal or glass, more preferably paper, an overhead projector slide or a textile material, especially paper. Preferred papers are plain or treated papers which may have an acid, alkaline or neutral character. Glossy papers are especially preferred. More especially photographic quality paper is preferred

25 Examples of commercially available papers include, HP Premium Coated Paper, HP Photopaper (all available from Hewlett Packard Inc.), Stylus Pro 720 dpi Coated Paper, Epson Photo Quality Glossy Film, Epson Photo Quality Glossy Paper (available from Seiko Epson Corp.), Canon HR 101 High Resolution Paper, Canon GP 201 Glossy Paper, Canon HG 101 High Gloss Film (all available from Canon Inc.), Wiggins Conqueror paper (available from Wiggins Teape Ltd), Xerox Acid Paper and Xerox Alkaline paper 30 (available from Xerox).

A fifth aspect of the present invention provides a substrate, preferably a paper, an overhead projector slide or a textile material, printed with an ink according to the third aspect of the present invention or by means of the process according to the fourth aspect of the present invention.

35 It is especially preferred that the fifth aspect of the invention is a photographic quality print.

According to a sixth aspect of the present invention there is provided an ink jet printer cartridge comprising a chamber and ink, wherein the ink is present in the chamber and the ink contains a compound or a composition according to the first or second aspect

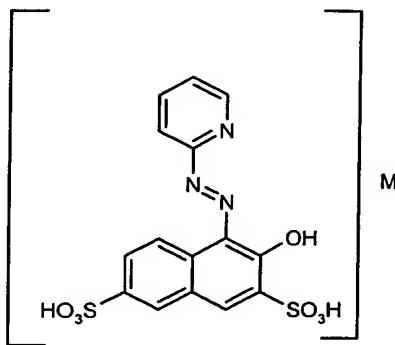
of the present invention. Preferably the ink is as defined in the third aspect of the present invention.

According to a seventh aspect of the present invention there is provided an ink jet printer containing an ink jet printer cartridge, wherein the ink jet printer cartridge is as defined in the sixth aspect of the present invention.

The invention is further illustrated by the following Examples in which all parts and percentages are by weight unless otherwise stated.

Example 1

10 Preparation of Compound (1) wherein M is nickel



Compound (1)

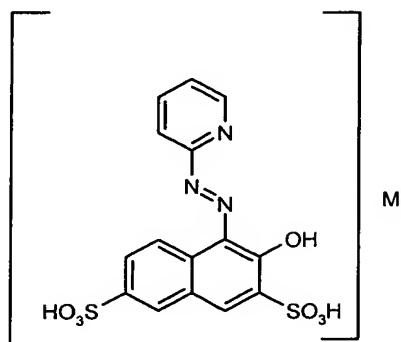
Compound 1 was prepared according to the stages (a) and (b):

15 Stage (a): Preparation of 2-hydroxy-1-[pyridin-2-ylidazenyl]naphthalene-3,6-disulfonic acid

2-Hydroxy-1-[pyridin-2-ylidazenyl]naphthalene (20g, 0.08mol) was added over 30 minutes to ice cold fuming sulphuric acid (20% sulphur trioxide, 150ml). Once the addition was complete the reaction temperature was slowly raised to 60°C and held at that temperature for 1.5 hours. The mixture was allowed to cool before being added to ice (1kg) to give an orange suspension. The solid was collected by filtration, washed with sodium chloride solution and acetone to give 57g of an orange solid (91% yield, 52% strength).

Stage (b): Preparation of Compound (1)

25 The product from stage (a) (5g, 6.4mmol) was dissolved in water at pH 6 (150ml). An aqueous solution of nickel chloride hexahydrate (8.5ml of a 0.4mol dm^{-3} solution) was added dropwise causing the colour to become deeper and the pH to fall. The pH was restored to pH 6-7 and the reaction mixture stirred at 70-80°C for 2 hours. After cooling the dye was precipitated by the addition of sodium chloride and collected by filtration. The 30 dye was reconstituted and dialysed to low conductivity through a dialysis membrane, to give 1g of solid. $\lambda_{\text{max}}(\text{water})$ 523, 562nm.

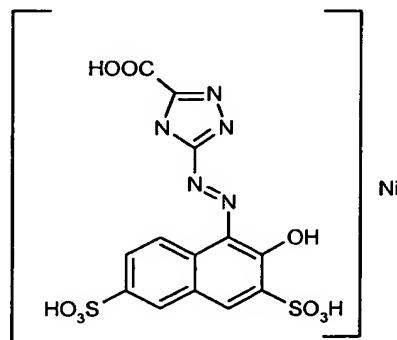
Example 2Preparation of Compound (2) wherein M is nickel

5

Example 2 was prepared by following the same procedure as described for compound (1) of example 1, with the exception that in stage (b) 17.5ml of a 0.4mol dm⁻³ nickel chloride solution was used. 2.1g of solid was collected, $\lambda_{\text{max}}(\text{water})$ 518, 555nm.

10 Comparative Dye 1

Comparative Dye 1 was prepared as described in Example 4 of EP1270676A and is of Formula:

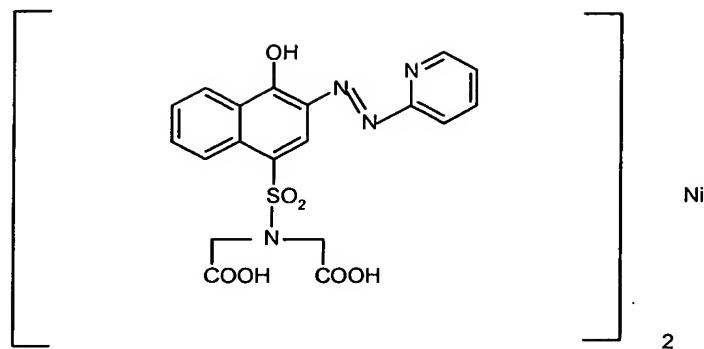


15

Comparative Dye 2

Comparative Dye 2 was prepared as described for Example IV of EP0902064B and is of Formula:

20



Example 3: Inks and Inkjet Printing

5 The dyes described in Examples 1 and 2 and Comparative Dyes 1 and 2 were each converted into the corresponding inks by dissolving 3.5 parts of each in 96.5 parts of a liquid medium comprising:

5 parts 2-pyrrolidone;
 5 parts thioglycol;
 10 2 parts SurfynolTM 465 (a non-ionic surfactant available from Air Products Inc.);
 88 parts water; and
 adjusted to pH 9.5 with ammonium hydroxide.

The inks so prepared were designated as Ink 1, Ink 2, Comparative Ink 1 and Comparative Ink 2 depending on which dye was incorporated therein

15

Ink-Jet Printing

Inks 1 and 2 and the Comparative Inks 1 and 2 were filtered through a 0.45 micron nylon filters and then incorporated into empty ink-jet print cartridges using a syringe.

20 The inks were then printed using an HP560C printer onto Canon Professional Photo Paper PR101 at 70% strength.

25 These prints were tested for ozone fastness by exposure to 1ppm ozone at 40 °C, 50% relative humidity for 24hrs in a Hampden 903 Ozone cabinet. The prints were also tested for light fastness by exposure to a Xenon Arc lamp for 100hours in an Atlas Ci5000 Weatherometer. Fastness of the printed ink to ozone and light was judged by the difference in the colour co-ordinates before and after exposure.

Colour measurements of the prints before and after exposure to ozone and light were performed using a Gretag spectrolino spectrophotometer set to the following parameters:

30 Measuring Geometry : 0°/45°
 Spectral Range : 400 - 700nm
 Spectral Interval : 20nm
 Illuminant : D65

Observer : 2° (UE 1931)
 Density : ANSI A
 External Filler : None

5 Ozone and light fastness were assessed by the change in the shade of the print (ΔE) as judged via the colour co-ordinates of the print, where a lower figure indicates higher fastness. This change ΔE is calculated using the relationship $\Delta E = ((\Delta a^*)^2 + (\Delta b^*)^2 + (\Delta L^*)^2)^{0.5}$. Results for the ozone and light fastness of the prints are shown below.

10

Table 1

	ΔE Ozone fastness	ΔE Light fastness
Ink 1	1	13
Ink 2	6	26
Comparative Ink 1	15	27
Comparative Ink 2	16	36

15 Table 1 shows that the inks of the present invention have an improved ozone and light fastness when compared to similar analogues.

Other Inks

20 The inks described in Tables A and B may be prepared wherein the Compound described in the first column is the Compound made in the above Examples of the same number. Numbers quoted in the second column onwards refer to the number of parts of the relevant ingredient and all parts are by weight. The inks may be applied to paper by thermal or piezo ink jet printing.

25 The following abbreviations are used in Table A and B:

PG = propylene glycol
 DEG = diethylene glycol
 NMP = N-methyl pyrrolidone
 30 DMK = dimethylketone
 IPA = isopropanol
 MEOH = methanol
 2P = 2-pyrrolidone
 MIBK = methylisobutyl ketone

P12 = propane-1,2-diol

BDL = butane-2,3-diol

CET= cetyl ammonium bromide

PHO = Na_2HPO_4 and

TBT = tertiary butanol

TDG = thioglycol

TABLE A

Dye	Dye Content	Water	PG	DEG	NMP	DMK	NaOH	Na Stearate	IPA	MEOH	2P	MIBK
1	2.0	80	5	6	4	0.2			5	1	1	
2	3.0	90	5	5	3	3			5		5	
2	10.0	85	3	8					4	9		
1	2.1	91	5						6	10	5	
1	3.1	86							6		4	
1	1.1	81							10			
2	2.5	60	4	15	3	3			6		5	
1	5	65		20					6			
1	2.4	75	5	4					5		4	
1	4.1	80	3	5	2	10			5		5	
2	3.2	65		5	4	6			5		4	
1	5.1	96							5		6	
2	10.8	90	5						1		15	
1	10.0	80	2	6	2				5		5	
2	1.8	80		5					1			
2	2.6	84							10		2	
1	3.3	80	2						7		3	
1	12.0	90							7			
2	5.4	69	2	20					2		6	
2	6.0	91							2		3	

TABLE B